

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

From: Allegan County Community Foundation
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Council on Foundations Recognized the Allegan County Community Foundation for Compliance with National Accountability Standards

The Allegan County Community Foundation is being recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. The Council on Foundations and leaders in the community foundation field created the National Standards to aid community foundations in establishing legal, ethical and effective operational practices that would show the foundations' transparency and financial responsibility in light of the increased public scrutiny of foundation practices.

“Adopting and adhering to high standards is the best way we can demonstrate our ongoing commitment to maintaining the trust of our donors and the entire community,” said Theresa Bray, Executive Director of the Allegan County Community Foundation. “We feel passionate about the work we do and commit ourselves to honesty and integrity. Our donors deserve nothing less.”

Intended both as a blueprint for internal organizational development and as a set of benchmarks for external assessment of performance, the 43 National Standards address six key areas of community foundation operations: Mission, Structure and Governance, Resource Development, Stewardship and accountability, Grantmaking and Community Leadership, Communications and Donor Relations. In order to achieve Confirmation of Compliance with the National Standards, community foundations must undergo an extensive review of their organizational and financial policies and procedures. The review is performed by trained, experienced community foundation practitioners.

As one of 500 community foundations nationwide that have pledged to comply with National Standards, the Allegan County Community Foundation joins an elite group of those who have been confirmed. Since 1964 the Allegan County Community Foundation has served the residents of the county through the establishment and growth of endowed funds. The growth of the endowed funds held by the Allegan County Community Foundation has led to millions of dollars in grants for programs that recognize and address the needs of county residents.

“With the confirmation of compliance comes a pride in knowing that we provide the highest caliber of service to our donors, non-profits partners and scholars. Our staff and board are honored to receive this designation and will continue to practice in an ethical and principled manner,” stated Bray.